



Sen. Joe Zarelli's

UPDATE FROM OLYMPIA

1/28/03

Dear Friends,

Sen. Joe Zarelli
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Committee Assignments

Capital Budget (Chair)
Ways & Means
Education
Economic Development
Financial Services, Insurance
& Housing

IMPORTANT DATES:

Monday, Jan. 27

3:30 pm, Ways & Means:
(*) SRC 2003 Supplemental
Budget proposal

Tuesday, Jan. 28

(**) 8:30 am, Financial
Services, Insurance &
Housing:
SB 5192, promoting job
growth through state
investments

Thursday, Jan. 30

8:00 am, Judiciary:
SB 5064, Sen. Zarelli's bill to
provide jury duty exemptions
to sole caregivers

I am pleased to let you know that my proposal to counter the state Supreme Court's ruling on felony murder passed the Senate Judiciary Committee last week and now awaits further action in the Senate Rules Committee. Clarifying the fact that a felonious assault can be a precursor to a felony murder charge is one of my priorities for this session. Safe citizens and safe families lead to strong communities.

One of the major issues we'll be dealing with this week is a Senate Republican proposal to speed up the cost-savings suggested in Governor Locke's budget.

In order to help fill the \$2.4 billion budget hole, Locke proposed state employee hiring freezes, reducing state agency spending, and managing the Basic Health Plan more efficiently. If Locke's budget passes, these provisions will go into affect in July of this year.

This week, I will join with my Senate Republican colleagues in passing a Supplemental Budget (*) that will include many of Locke's proposals. Our thinking is, "If it's good enough for July, it's good enough for right now!" By implementing these measures early (starting in April), we can save \$127 million now and another \$250 million in the next budget cycle. This will be that much less we will need to cut next biennium.

I am committed to holding the governor to his "no tax increase" promise, and that commitment starts with holding him to his initial budget proposal. We'll see in the next few weeks how serious the governor and others in the Legislature are about not raising taxes.

As always, please contact my office with any concerns or questions. It truly is a pleasure to serve you.

Sincerely,

Sen. Joe Zarelli, 18th Legislative District

Zarelli champions "homegrown businesses"

Washington would be required to invest more money into its own businesses and start-ups if a bill (SB 5192 **) introduced Monday by state Sen. Joe Zarelli, R-Ridgefield, is passed this session.

"Shouldn't we invest a little bit more in homegrown businesses in Washington? Maybe we'll encourage businesses (to locate here) that might otherwise be in another state," Zarelli said.
-- *The Daily News*, 1/14/03

Zarelli aims to nix felony murder ruling

Sen. Joe Zarelli said Friday he will introduce a bill to counter a ruling that may overturn hundreds of convictions, including two in Cowlitz County.

"I'm a little ticked off at how the court seems to legislate from the bench," said Zarelli.

Zarelli said the court demonstrated its "radical nature" by overturning the murder conviction and also ruling in September that taking pictures up women's skirts in public places didn't violate the law. -- *The Daily News*, 11/16/02